willingness of the Government to give it a non-official President under certain conditions was communicated to that council several months ago and that the matter is still under the consideration of that body. All the councils without exception have been allowed the privilege of having elected non-official vice-presidents and many of the councils have already exercised that privilege. The reconstituted councils have not yet had time to settle down to work, and it is too soon to dogmatise on their attitude or achievement in fiscal and other matters. Government trust that the members of these councils would rise to a full sense of their opportunities and responsibilities and succeed in making them real, living institutions. The transfer of minor roads and primary schools within municipal limits to the control of the councils concerned is receiving the consideration of Government.

29. The Bill for the constitution of administrative panchayats in rural areas is ready for publication. Government have not yet come to a decision in regard to the desirability of creating District Boards. The Ezhava Bill and the Nair Regulation Amendment Bill have been postponed for the consideration of the new Legislative Council. The Committee appointed to examine the customary law relating to marriage and inheritance among Nanjanad Vellalas has just submitted its report, and it is now engaging the attention of Government.

30. Legislative Council.—I have already touched upon most of the legislative activities of the Government during the period, but by far the most important legislative measure still remains to be mentioned. I refer to Regulation II of 1097, passed with the object of bringing into existence an enlarged Legislative Council with a substantial elected non-official majority and endowed with considerably larger powers than those possessed by the Council which it supersedes. The concomitant Regulation, IX of 1097, having for its object the prevention of corrupt practices at legislative elections, needs no separate mention. I do not propose to dilate on the new Legislative Council Regulation and the rules framed under it, beyond inviting your pointed attention to the fact that they constitute the largest measure of constitutional reform ever yet inaugurated in an Indian State, and I want you to remember that such a liberal measure would not have been possible but for your good fortune in possessing as your Ruler His Highness Sri Mulam Tirunal whose constant watchword is the progress and prosperity of his subjects in all possible directions. Besides the usual power of asking questions, both original and supplementary, and moving resolutions, the new Council has been given a very substantial share in the actual administration of the State in the shape of the right of voting on all heads of the budget except a few which have been reserved for very special reasons. It is unfortunate that even this uniquely generous measure of reform, which has gone considerably farther than the demands made by the representatives of the people themselves, has been without trial characterised in certain quarters as inadequate and unsatisfactory. Government have no doubt that these discordant notes do not echo the real voice of the people and they confidently look to all loyal subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja to willingly cooperate with them in making this great constitutional experiment a success.

31. Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.—The rules regulating the constitution and conduct of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly have been revised, as promised, and the draft revised rules have been just published in a supplemental issue of the Gazette. In regard to the qualifications of members and electors and the procedure connected with the conduct of elections, etc., these rules closely follow those framed to give effect to the new Legislative Council Regulation, while an attempt has also been made to methodise the work of the Assembly and avoid repetition. Eighty-five of the members of the Assembly will be elected and fifteen alone nominated under the new rules and members once elected will continue to be so for three consecutive sessions. Your suggestions on the draft rules would be most welcome, and they will receive careful consideration at the hands of the Government before they are finally passed.

32. Devaswoms and Land Revenue.—After a careful consideration of the report of the Devaswom Separation Committee, Government have decided to

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